

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 02861 040727Z

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ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-07 DOTE-00 RSC-01 /019 W

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R 030811Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO MR. KEMMONS R. WILSON, PRESIDENT

HOLIDAY INNS, INC

HOLIDAY CITY

3750 LAMAR AVENUE

MEMPHIS, TENN 38118

TELEX: TWX 810-591-1340

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 20950

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 2861

PASS COMMERCE

FROM RODERICK M. WRIGHT ECON/COMM OFFICER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, SY

SUBJ: SYRIA - TOURISM PROJECTS

1. THREE SYRIAN BUSINESSMEN, HEADED BY GEORGES ABDINI, CURRENTLY AND FOR PAST 25 YEARS NATIONAL CASH REGISTER REP FOR SYRIA, HAVE PROVIDED EMBASSY WITH DETAILED INFORMATION ON TOURISM PROJECTS WHICH THEY SAY GOVERNMENT OF SYRIA STRONGLY DESIRES TO GET UNDERWAY BY MARCH 1975. MR. ABDINI, WHO SAYS HE HAS MET YOU IN DAMASCUS, MR. TORBEY AND MR. JABRI STATE THAT ONLY HOLIDAY INNS WOULD BE IN POSITION TO CONSIDER NUMBER OF PROJECTS LISTED BELOW. KEY ASPECT OF THIS VENTURE, THEY SAY, IS THAT REPAYMENT WILL BE GUARANTEED BY CENTRAL BANK OF SYRIA AND CENTRAL BANK OF KUWAIT. TAX AND CUSTOMS EXEMPTIONS AVAILABLE FOR PROJECT-RELATED IMPORTS ALONG WITH LIBERAL FOREIGN EXCHANGE MOVEMENT IN AND OUT OF SYRIA.

2. PROJECTS INCLUDE:

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 DAMASC 02861 040727Z

A. TOURISM COMPLEX (DAMASCUS) 150,000 SQUARE METERS, INCLUDING 300-ROOM HOTEL WITH CONFERENCE HALLS, RESTAURANTS, NIGHT CLUBS, SWIMMING POOL, PARK/GARDEN, MINIATURE GOLF COURSE; ESTIMATEC COST \$15 MILLION, LAND EXCLUDED.

B. HOTEL SCHOOL (DAMASCUS), 50 TO 100 ROOMS, RESTAURANT, ETC., ANNEX WITH CLASSROOMS AND INSTRUCTION HALLS, LIBRARY; 1,000 SQUARE METERS, ESTIMATED COST \$5 MILLION.

C. THREE-STAR HOTELH(DAMASCUS), 500 ROOMS AND OTHER USUAL FACILITIES; ESTIMATED COST \$10 MILLION.

D. TWO ADJOINING TOURISM COMPLEXES (DAMASCUS), 3,000 SQUARE METERS, EACH TO INCLUDE THREE-STAR 300 ROOM HOTEL, ADMINISTRATION BUILDING FOR EACH COMPLEX (200 SQUARE METERS EACH), AND BUS TERMINAL/GARAGE/CAFETERIA, ETC; EACH COMPLEX ESTIMATED COST \$10 MILLION, EXCLUDING LAND.

E. THREE-STAR 300-ROOM HOTEL (HOMS); EST COST \$7 MILLION.

F. SYRIAN COAST:

(1) RAS EL-BASSIT AND TARTOUS TOURIST COMPLEXES IN FORM OF TOURIST VILLAGES, EACH TO CONSIST OF THREE-STAR 300-ROOM HOTEL, CHALETS FOR 1,000 BEDS, RESTAURANTS, NIGHT CLUBS, PLAYGROUNDS, CAR SERVICE STATION, ETC., ESTIMATED COST \$25 MILLION EACH.

2. HOTEL SCHOOL, WITH TOURIST HOTEL 100 ROOMS, MOTEL 50 ROOMS, CHALETS FOR 150 BEDS, RESTAURANTS, 1,000 SQUARE METER BUILDING FOR STUDENT DORMITORY, CLASSROOMS, ETC.; ESTIMATED COST \$10 MILLION.

G. TOURISM-RELATED PROJECTS TO INCLUDE SUPERMARKETS, CAMP SITES, CASINO, SHOPPING CENTERS, CAR SERVICE STATIONS, ETC.

3. ABOVE PROJECTS IN ADDITION TO THOSE CURRENTLY UNDERWAY IN DAMASCUS (SHERATON AND MEREDIAN) AND PALMYRA, ALEPPO, AND LATTAKIA.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 DAMASC 02861 040727Z

4. MR. ABDINI ASKED THAT THIS INFORMATION BE PASSED TO YOU DIRECTLY BY THE QUICKEST POSSIBLE MEANS. AM ALSO INFORMING MR. NABIL E. CHARTOUNI, REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT, HOLIDAY INNS, BEIRUT, THROUGH THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN BEIRUT. MURPHY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 DEC 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974DAMASC02861
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740351-0398
From: DAMASCUS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741266/aaaacebk.tel
Line Count: 113
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION COME
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kelleyw0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16-Aug-2002 by ReddocGW>; APPROVED <19 FEB 2003 by kelleyw0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SYRIA - TOURISM PROJECTS
TAGS: BEXP, SY
To: COM
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005